

REMARKS

Claims 1-34 were pending and rejected in the above-identified patent application. Claims 1, 10, 18, 26 and 32-34 are being amended. Claims 7, 15, 23 and 31 are being canceled. Claims 1-6, 8-14, 16-22, 24-30 and 32-34 remain pending after this amendment. Reconsideration in view of the amendments above and remarks below is respectfully requested.

In paragraph 2, the Examiner objected to the disclosure because of an incomplete sentence on page 17. Applicant has amended the paragraph to complete the sentence per the corresponding figure. No new matter is being added.

In paragraphs 3 and 4, the Examiner rejected claim 34 under 35 USC § 102 over an article by Microsoft. Applicant is amending claim 34 to include the limitations “retrieving a virtual private volume identifier from said data packet; searching for the virtual private volume identifier retrieved from said data packet; reading a corresponding private volume identifier of a volume in one of said plurality of devices that store information; and replacing in said data packet said virtual private volume identifier with said corresponding private volume identifier” in addition to “retrieving a virtual destination address from said data packet; searching for the virtual destination address retrieved from said data packet; reading a corresponding destination address for a particular one of a plurality of devices that store information; [and] replacing in said data packet said virtual destination address with said corresponding destination address.”

The Microsoft article describes network address (IP and TCP/UDP address) translation. The Microsoft article does not teach retrieving a virtual destination address from said data packet, retrieving a virtual private volume identifier from said data packet, replacing in said data packet said virtual destination address with a corresponding destination address, and replacing in said data packet said virtual private volume identifier with a corresponding private volume identifier. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 34 is now patentable over the Microsoft article.

In paragraphs 6-12, the Examiner rejected claims 10, 15-17, 26 and 31-33 under 35 USC § 103 over De Vos in view of the Microsoft article. Independent claim 10 is being amended to include the limitation “said server searches in said data packet for a virtual private volume identifier, and if found, thereupon searches in said memory for a volume identifier

corresponding to said virtual private volume identifier, and thereupon replaces said virtual private volume identifier in said data packet with said volume identifier.”

Similarly, independent claim 26 is being amended to include the limitation “said particular one of said plurality of devices that store information searches in said data packet for virtual private volume identifier, and if found, thereupon searches in said memory for a volume identifier corresponding to said virtual private volume identifier, and thereupon replaces said virtual private volume identifier in said data packet with said volume identifier.”

De Vos describes a storage medium unit controlled by downloaded programs. The Examiner admits that De Vos does not teach network address translation. Neither De Vos nor the Microsoft article teaches a server or a storage device retrieving a virtual destination address from said data packet, retrieving a virtual private volume identifier from said data packet, replacing in said data packet said virtual destination address with a corresponding destination address, and replacing in said data packet said virtual private volume identifier with a corresponding private volume identifier. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 10 and 26 are patentable over De Vos in view of the Microsoft article. For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 15-17 which depend from claim 10 and claims 31-33 which depend from claim 26 are also patentable over De Vos in view of the Microsoft article.

In paragraphs 13-20, the Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 7-9, 18 and 23-25 under 35 USC § 103 over De Vos in view of official notice and the Microsoft article. Independent claim 1 is being amended to include the limitation “said gateway receives a data packet for storing, retrieves a virtual destination address from said data packet, searches in said memory for said virtual destination address retrieved from said data packet, reads from said memory a corresponding destination address for a particular one of said plurality of devices that store information, and thereupon replaces in said data packet said virtual destination address with said corresponding destination address from said memory; and wherein said gateway searches in said data packet for a virtual private volume identifier, and if found, thereupon searches in said memory for a volume identifier corresponding to said virtual private volume identifier, and thereupon replaces said virtual private volume identifier in said data packet with said volume identifier.”

Similarly, independent claim 18 is being amended to include the limitation “said switch receives a data packet for storing, retrieves a virtual destination address from said data packet, searches in said memory for said virtual destination address retrieved from said data packet, reads from said memory a corresponding destination address for a particular one of said plurality of devices that store information, and thereupon replaces in said data packet said virtual destination address with said corresponding destination address from said memory; and wherein said switch searches in said data packet for a command and a virtual private volume identifier, and if found, thereupon searches in said memory for a volume identifier corresponding to said virtual private volume identifier, and thereupon replaces said virtual private volume identifier in said data packet with said volume identifier.”

The Examiner takes official notice that the device includes a processor and memory. However, neither De Vos nor the Microsoft article nor official notice teaches a gateway or a switch retrieving a virtual destination address from said data packet, retrieving a virtual private volume identifier from said data packet, replacing in said data packet said virtual destination address with a corresponding destination address, and replacing in said data packet said virtual private volume identifier with a corresponding private volume identifier. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1 and 18 are patentable over De Vos in view of the Microsoft article and official notice. For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2, 3, 8 and 9 which depend from claim 1 and claims 24 and 25 which depend from claim 18 are patentable over De Vos in view of the Microsoft article. (Claims 7 and 23 are being canceled.)

In paragraphs 21-24, the Examiner rejected claims 11-14 and 27-30 under 35 USC § 103 over De Vos in view of the Microsoft article and the MPOA article. The MPOA article discloses protocol translation. However, like De Vos and the Microsoft article, MPOA does not teach a server or a storage device retrieving a virtual destination address from said data packet, retrieving a virtual private volume identifier from said data packet, replacing in said data packet said virtual destination address with a corresponding destination address, and replacing in said data packet said virtual private volume identifier with a corresponding private volume identifier, as recited in claim 10 (from which claims 11-14 depend) and claim 26 (from which claims 27-30 depend). Accordingly, for at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits

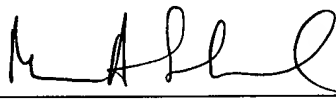
that claims 11-14 and 27-30 are patentable over De Vos in view of the Microsoft article and the MPOA article.

In paragraphs 25-28, the Examiner rejected claims 4-6 and 19-22 under 35 USC § 103 over De Vos in view of the Microsoft article, the MPOA article and official notice. However, as stated above, De Vos, the Microsoft article, MPOA and official notice do not teach a gateway or a switch retrieving a virtual destination address from said data packet, retrieving a virtual private volume identifier from said data packet, replacing in said data packet said virtual destination address with a corresponding destination address, and replacing in said data packet said virtual private volume identifier with a corresponding private volume identifier, as recited in claim 1 (from which claims 4-6 depend) and claim 18 (from which claims 19-22 depend). Accordingly, for at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 4-6 and 19-22 are patentable over De Vos in view of the Microsoft article, the MPOA article and official notice.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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